

From: Rollie Schmidt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 3:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern at U.S. Dept. Of Justice,

I have worked in the computer industry for nearly 28 years. I have seen many things come and go since the early-to-mid 70's. One of the most ridiculous things I have witnessed is this incessant hounding of Microsoft. Why? They are successful. Get over it. Why are they successful? They build good products for which the public willingly exchanges value in the form of legal tender. Again, gladly is the manner in which they (the public and businesses) do so.

Have you ever gone to an Office Depot or Staples or whatever store and seen anyone pushing people into the aisle with MSFT products? Any in hammer locks being forced to buy MSFT products while the Apple side of the aisle (or usually completely different aisle for Apple since there needs to be a whole aisle just for MSFT binaries) is nearly vacant?

So you have choice, you have a free market, you have people voting by the millions with their checkbooks for MSFT products. I have used Sun Microsystems machines, which I consider better than most Intel-based machines for many tasks. I can and will use them when needed. The Sun Solaris operating system is excellent. In many cases better than Windows2000 or any other OS. There are a number of great applications. If there were not why would SUNW be a multi-billion dollar commercial success? I have Linux at my disposal on my Intel-based systems as well. I can run that and have. It's good for a lot of things. It has applications too. People run them. In many cases they are even free. You get what you pay for. That's why I have CHOSEN to buy Microsoft products for all my family's home needs. It's why I use them on my business laptop as well. They work and they work very well.

Why not consider this and stop wasting my and other taxpayers' money by hounding MSFT any further? Jealousy of their success is just some warped commercial form of class envy. Let someone else step up and do a better job than Microsoft and they market will take care of itself.

Please get closure on this Microsoft litigation and free them to focus on doing their fair share, which they likely are more than willing to do, and channel their valuable resources into helping to get the economy into high gear again. Hounding Microsoft any further is wasteful of taxpayer resources, wasteful of Microsoft and Microsoft shareholder resources and just generally bad for everyone.

Thanks much,

Roland Schmidt
Auburn, CA 95602